means for activating the means for acquiring at the indicated time, such that the means for selectively displaying displays the image or images in real time as the set of content data is acquired by the means for acquiring.

70. A system as in Claim 2, wherein the means for selectively displaying further comprises means for scheduling the display of the image or images generated from a set of content data.

71. A system as in Claim 2, further comprising means for updating the set of content data.

72. A system as in Claim 71, wherein the means for updating operates without disrupting use of the apparatus by the user during the time that the means for updating is operating.

73. A system as in Claim 71, wherein the means for updating obtains the updated set of content data from the content providing system.

74. A system as in Claim 73, wherein the means for updating operates automatically, without intervention by the user.

75. A system as in Claim 73, wherein the means for updating further comprises:

means for specifying the location of the content providing system; and

means for specifying the time at which an updated set of content data is to be obtained from the content providing system.

76. A system as in Claim 2, wherein the means for detecting further comprises a location in a memory that stores data representing the duration of time since a last user interaction with the apparatus, the memory location being predetermined according to a method for operating the apparatus, such that an idle period is detected when the stored duration of time is equal to the predetermined duration.

77. A system as in Claim 2, further comprising:

means for interrupting a process being implemented by the apparatus at the time that the means for selectively displaying begins operating;

means for storing information representing the state of the process at the time of interruption; and

means for beginning operation of the process, using the stored state of the process, after the means for selectively displaying stops operating.

78. A system as in Claim 2, wherein the content data is video data.

79. A system as in Claim 78, wherein display of the video data produces a still image.

80. A system as in Claim 78, wherein display of the video data produces a moving image.

81. A system as in Claim 2, wherein the content data is audio data.

82. A system as in Claim 2, wherein the apparatus is a computer.

REMARKS

Claims 68-82 have been added to more fully claim the system according to the invention.

Claims 68-77 are exactly the same as canceled Claims 22-31 that were previously pending in the application, except that Claims 68-77 depend upon, either directly or indirectly, allowed Claim 2 (formerly Claim 20 before renumbering of the allowed claims as indicated in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance that accompanied the Notice of Allowability dated August 26, 1999), rather than rejected Claim 19 (as was the case with canceled Claims 22-31). Similarly, Claims 78-82 are exactly the same as canceled Claims 41-45 that were previously pending in